

## **Minutes of the State Board of Health**

**December 10, 2003**

The Washington State Board of Health (SBOH) met at the Hilton Seattle Airport & Conference Center located at 17620 Pacific Hwy South in Seattle, Washington. Chair Linda Lake called the public meeting to order at 9:40 a.m. and addressed the attendees with the following statement:

“This is a public meeting of the State Board of Health held under provisions of RCW 43.20. Notice of the meeting was provided in accordance with provisions of RCW 34.05, the Administrative Procedures Act. Those members having any conflict of interest on any item coming before the Board will report that conflict with respect to the particular subject under consideration. In case of challenge of any Board members by the public, the Board shall decide the status of the challenged members to participate before considering the substance of the matter.

Copies of all materials supplied to the Board for today’s meeting have been available since close of business last Friday from the Board’s Olympia office and on the Board’s Web site at [www.doh.wa.gov/sboh](http://www.doh.wa.gov/sboh). They are also available today, along with anything else we have received since, at the table in the back of the room. To conserve public funds, we have only made as many copies as we feel will be needed, so we may run out of some particularly popular items. If you do not find a document you need, please ask Executive Assistant Desiree Robinson, or another Board staff person for one.

Our meeting today is open to the public, so please feel free to listen in on informal discussions involving Board members or staff, including any that may occur during breaks or lunch.”

### **SBOH members present:**

Linda Lake, MBA, Chair  
Thomas H. Locke, MD, MPH, Vice Chair  
The Honorable Carolyn Edmonds

Ed Gray, MD  
Vickie Ybarra, RN, MPH  
Secretary Mary Selecky

### **SBOH members absent:**

The Honorable David Crump, PhD  
Carl Osaki, RS, MSPH

Charles Chu, DPM

### **State Board of Health Staff present:**

Don Sloma, Executive Director  
Craig McLaughlin, Sr. Health Policy Manager  
Tara Wolff, Health Policy Advisor

Marianne Seifert, Health Policy Advisor  
Desiree Robinson, Executive Assistant  
Heather Boe, Assistant to the Board

### **Guests and Other Participants:**

Barbara Lantz, Medical Assistance Administration, DSHS  
Bill Hagens, Medical Assistance Administration, DSHS  
Carl Plonksy, MD FAAP, Union Avenue Pediatrics  
Cynthia Shurtleff, WCAAP & HMHB  
Gayle Thronson, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction  
Jack Williams, Department of Health  
Jeff Thompson, Medical Assistance Administration, DSHS

Jessica Barnard, Researcher  
Kathy Phipps, Project Coordinator, OMPRO  
Kirsten Wysen, Public Health-Seattle & King County  
Maggie Moran, King County Board of Health  
Mike Gallagher, Department of Ecology  
Nancy Anderson Marquim, Medical Assistance Administration, DSHS  
Polly Zehm, Department of Ecology  
Rob Duff, Department of Health  
Madeline Beery, Department of Health  
Sharon Reddick, Medical Assistance Administration, DSHS  
Stacy Aguas, OMPRO  
Susan Johnson, Public Health-Seattle & King County  
Steve Meyer, Department of Health  
Maxine Hayes, Department of Health

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

*Motion: Approve December 10, 2003 agenda*

*Motion/Second: Ybarra/Locke*

*Approved unanimously*

### **ADOPTION OF October 15, 2003 MEETING MINUTES**

*Motion: Approve the October 15, 2003 minutes as written*

*Motion/Second: Locke/Selecky*

*Approved unanimously*

### **DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH UPDATE**

Secretary of the Department of Health Mary Selecky announced the appointment of Steve Meyer as director of Policy, Legislative, and Constituent Relations. She mentioned the recent state health rankings by the United Health Foundation; Washington ranked 11<sup>th</sup> best. She spoke about vigilant efforts to prevent West Nile Virus (WNV), noting that there have been no confirmed human, horse or bird cases during 2003 in Washington State. She discussed the reappearance of hantavirus, and provided an update on the public health preparedness work. She provided assurances that state and local public health are working together to prevent and respond to any possible outbreak of SARS. She then discussed influenza activity and the availability of flu vaccine. Board Member Ed Gray said his community has 160 of 300 doses still available. Board Member Thomas Locke said vaccine supplies in Jefferson and Clallam counties are exhausted and spoke about other disease control efforts. At Secretary Selecky's request, Maggie Moran, administrator for the King County Metropolitan Board of Health, came forward and added that Public Health—Seattle & King County has been overwhelmed by calls about flu shots.

### **SBOH ANNOUNCEMENTS & OTHER BOARD BUSINESS**

Don Sloma, MPH, WSBOH Executive Director, called the Board's attention to various correspondences, including Joe Finkbonner's letter resigning from the Board because he had relocated to Portland. In addition, Mr. Sloma pointed out a letter from the American Indian Health Commission suggesting that Mr. Finkbonner's replacement come from the American Indian community. He introduced Heather Boe, Assistant to the Board, as a returning employee, and reintroduced Board Health Policy Analyst Tara Wolff. He discussed a letter from Chair Lake

and other Board members to the Tacoma-Pierce County Board of Health regarding their ban on smoking in public places. Chair Lake provided a report on the December 3 Tacoma-Pierce County Board of Health public hearing on the ban. Mr. Sloma then mentioned two e-mails received—Kay Koontz’s resignation as administrator of the Clark County Health Department in 2004 and a response to a legislative staff request for information about why the Board had not mandated universal hearing screening. He also suggested the Board might want to review government policy about producing immunizations in light of recent shortages. Dr. Locke noted that the vaccine shortages issue comes back to the Board repeatedly and warrants continued Board attention. He noted the conflict between science-driven vaccine policy and market-driven production. Secretary Selecky said the CDC is looking for offshore supplies that could be brought into the United States.

#### **APPROVAL OF 2004 WSBOH MEETING SCHEDULE**

Mr. Sloma directed the Board to the proposed meeting schedule for 2004. Board members present expressed no concerns about the schedule and Chair Lake suggested that it be considered firm and be redistributed to all Board members. The Board discussed possible joint meetings with boards of health in King, Jefferson and Clallam counties.

#### **REVIEW AND APPROVE 2003 ANNUAL REPORT TEXT**

Craig McLaughlin, WSBOH Policy Manager introduced the proposed 2003 annual report text behind tab six and distributed sample Board logos. Mr. McLaughlin asked for approval of the text and comment on the logos. Dr. Locke commented that he liked the structure and content of the report and offered to edit some sections. Dr. Locke suggested sending Board members a draft that could be edited.

***Motion: The Board approves the draft annual report language as submitted at this meeting, subject to future editing with the review and approval of the Board Chair.***

***Motion/Second: Locke/Ybarra***

***Approved unanimously***

Chair Lake asked Board members to provide Mr. McLaughlin with comments on the logo outside the meeting.

Ms. Selecky informed the Board that she would be on a conference call at 11 a.m., and that Dr. Maxine Hayes would sit it for her.

#### **STATE BOARDS REPORT**

Craig McLaughlin, WSBOH Policy Manager presented the proposed final draft of the Nationwide Survey of State Boards of Health. See memo and draft behind tab seven.

***Motion: The Board adopts the report Washington State Board of Health Nationwide Survey of State Boards of Health as submitted.***

***Motion/Second: Locke/Edmonds***

***Approved unanimously***

**DOH/DOE MERCURY CHEMICAL ACTION PLAN UPDATE**

Marianne Seifert, MA, WSBOH Health Policy Advisor directed the Board to materials behind tab eight and discussed Board Member Carl Osaki's recommendation that the Board continue its support for the Department of Ecology's persistent bioaccumulative toxins (PBT) plan. Mike Gallagher, BS MS MPA, Department of Ecology (DOE), discussed the PBT strategy and the Mercury Chemical Action Plan (see PowerPoint slideshow for more information). Rob Duff, MS, Acting Office Director, Environmental Health Assessments, DOH discussed DOH's work to support DOE. DOH will be developing the education plan and will be working with DOE on its implementation. He then discussed research on the toxicity of mercury (see slideshow). Chair Lake prompted a discussion of DOE laboratory capacity. Dr. Maxine Hayes, State Health Officer, sitting in for Secretary Selecky, led a discussion about the need for data concerning the effectiveness of public health fish advisories.

*Motion: The Board supports the goals and intent of Department of Ecology's "Proposed Strategy to Continually Reduce Persistent Bioaccumulative Toxins (PBTs) in Washington State."*

*Motion/Second: Osaki/Ybarra*

*Approved unanimously*

**VISION FOR DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY**

Polly Zehm, Interim Deputy Director, DOE, discussed the contents of a letter to the Board from DOE Interim Director Linda Hoffman concerning the 2004 State Health Report. (See letter for more information).

Meeting broke for lunch at noon and reconvened at 1:40 p.m.

**DRAFT STATEMENT OF BOARD POLICY ON POSSIBLE 2004 LEGISLATIVE ISSUES**

Mr. McLaughlin reviewed the development of past Board statements on possible legislative issues, and the current draft statement behind tab 10. Ms. Edmonds added that there might be discussions in the finance committees about the possibility of tax revenue going to the city and county where the product is delivered. Ms. Selecky asked if this went back to discussions about sales tax equalization. Mr. McLaughlin asked Board members to review and comment on the list of legislative issues behind tab ten. A revised version will be presented at the Jan 14, 2004 Board meeting for approval. Mr. Sloma called attention to the statement on tobacco. Ms. Selecky added that there might be additional legislation around tobacco and clean air. Dr. Locke said statements about the Board's ongoing work on emergency preparedness efforts and on the onsite sewage system rule revision should be added.

**DRAFT STATE HEALTH REPORT**

Mr. McLaughlin reviewed the State Health Report outline behind tab 11. He noted that the outline would add a strategic direction on healthy air and water. He also reviewed the "for instance" examples proposed each section. Ms. Selecky said Island County's PACE EH project would be a nice "for instance" to highlight. Dr. Locke encouraged using email for Board members to participate in developing the State Health Report. Dr. Locke asked that the Washington Health Foundation's values be woven into the critical health services section. He added that the environmental health section should focus on direct connections with human health. Mr. McLaughlin offered to email the State Health Report draft the day after Christmas.

Ms. Edmonds excused herself due to another commitment.

### **CLINICAL PREVENTIVE SERVICES FOR CHILDREN**

Board Member Vickie Ybarra, RN MPH, reviewed the Board's previous work on clinical preventive services for children (see memo behind tab 12), and added that today the Board would hear about initiatives that had been making great inroads in providing access for children.

Barbara Lantz, MN RN, Nurse Consultant Advisor, Medical Assistance Administration, DSHS, provided information about MAA efforts to improve care to children, particularly the Children's Preventive Health Care Initiative (see PowerPoint slideshow for more information). In response to a question from Ms. Ybarra, Ms. Lantz talked about provider attitudes toward Child Profile and ways that "star" clinics are using it.

Carl Plonsky, MD FAAP, Union Avenue Pediatrics, Tacoma, discussed ways his practice tries to increase delivery of well-child care. About 12 years ago he started offering well-child classes to families with 2-month-old children. He extended the concept for additional age groups. Fifty to 60 percent of parents take advantage of the classes. Children attend with the parents, and he observes and assesses children during classes, as well in private well-child exams. Dr. Locke said it is a wonderful story and an example of how people are rethinking the delivery of health care.

Susan Johnson, BA & Kirsten Wysen, MHSA, King County Health Action Plan at Public Health—Seattle & King County, discussed the King County Health Action Plan's Kids Get Care program (see PowerPoint slideshow for more information). During the discussion after the presentations, Dr. Plonsky spoke about the importance of doing same-day visits when parents call in with sick children as a way of reducing emergency room visits and hospitalizations. He noted that children on Medicaid have increased rates of hospitalization and that preventive care can lower the number of hospitalizations.

#### ***Motion:***

***The Board encourages state officials to maintain the highest priority on children's clinical preventive services consistent with past Board work and the adoption of the children's clinical preventive services priority by the Governor's Subcabinet on Health and by Governor Locke in the 2002 State Health Report. The Board recommends this priority be retained in the 2004 State Health Report, with a focus on eliminating barriers to full implementation, including those related to public awareness, clinical practice, information systems, health plan administration, and state purchasing. The Board urges state officials to pursue a range of incentives (including financial incentives for parents) to assure that all Washington's children receive proven clinical preventive health services.***

***Motion/Second: Ybarra/Locke***

***Approved unanimously***

### **A QUALITY AGENDA FOR DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL & HEALTH SERVICES (DSHS) MEDICAL ASSISTANCE ADMINISTRATION (MAA)**

Jeff Thompson, MD MPH, MAA Medical Director, DSHS, spoke about efforts to improve quality of medical care (see copy of PowerPoint slide show for more information). Secretary Selecky prompted a discussion about whether the proposed standardized language on medical necessity might put plans and providers in a bind by creating pressure to "pay for hope." Dr.

Locke said the presentation suggests that quality becomes more complex the more you look into it—and what we need most are systems, particularly information systems, that drive incentives and disincentives. Dr. Thompson said consumers don't shop for health care the way they shop for other products, so many consumer-driven approaches do not work.

#### **REQUEST FOR BOARD INPUT ON DSHS/MAA STRATEGIC PLAN**

Bill Hagens, Senior Health Policy Advisor, MAA, DSHS, spoke about MAA's strategic planning efforts (see PowerPoint slideshow for more information). He said he would like to hear from the Board about how the strategic plan fits with the Board's direction. Ms. Ybarra mentioned the Board priority in the area of school health and asked about the Medicaid funding that is available to schools but isn't necessarily spent on health programs. Secretary Selecky suggested that staff could help draft comments on the plan on behalf of the Board. Dr. Locke mentioned that he had put the survey developed by MAA as part of its strategic planning on the agenda for the boards of health in both Jefferson and Clallam counties. He said strategic planning is essential to turn around complex systems. He added that he would like MAA to promote innovation at the local level. He also said that requiring greater accountability from providers cuts both ways and the Legislature has to be accountable for providing adequate funding for the services MAA is charged with providing. Chair Lake asked that the Board's contribution be clear, forthright, direct and express the spirited discussions the Board has had on many of these issues. Dr. Locke noted that we should put resources where there is the greatest possibility of improvement—such as where there are health disparities and the highest risks. He added that the greatest indicator of health status is economic level.

#### **PUBLIC TESTIMONY**

Cynthia Shurtleff, speaking for the Washington Academy of Pediatrics, commended the Board for the presentations on children's health. She said there are problems with the language of "evidence-based" when it comes to children's health. She said children are not the drivers of state health care costs. She noted that there is \$27 million in federal funds for the SCHIP program, and that children's advocates agree it should be spent to eliminate premiums to the extent possible.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Lake adjourned the meeting at 4:21 p.m.

WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH



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Linda Lake, Chair